

Bag a land speed record car for less than £20k!

THIS has to be the bargain of the year. A Honda F1 V10 race car that achieved a land-speed record of 246.908mph over the Bonneville flats in 2006.

It's up for auction by Bonhams on July 24 with an estimate of £10k-£20k.

For any old F1 car that's no money, but for something so historic it's an absolute steal. Details at www.bonhams.com

Bonneville blaster..



Striking ... Alan's Jag XK8

SHEAR JOY AT £6K

ALAN Shearer's 1996 XK8 Coupe has popped up for sale. In metallic green with mushroom leather, the Jag's done 98,000 and comes with service history and photos of Alan with the car. Price is £6,495, which is about £1,500 more than a normal P-plate, but not bad for a football icon's icon. Details on 07043 235695.

Quentin



IN February Geoff Small bought a 57-reg BMW 520d with 55,000 miles. In May the car was towed to a BMW dealer with a broken timing chain. The garage said that it would require an engine rebuild which would cost him around £9,000. The service book showed that the car had been previously owned by a rental company, who had done all the servicing themselves. As a result, Geoff has been told his 520 is not covered by warranty. What can he do?

QUENTIN SAYS: Unusually, I'm on BMW's side. Their used warranty is normally the best in the industry, but they do, quite reasonably, insist that a car is serviced to their recommended schedule, with the correct oil and BMW parts. Geoff really should have checked the history before he bought, to make sure there were BMW dealer stamps in the book. I know this isn't what he wants to hear, but manufacturers' warranties have strict terms and he must stick to them. Geoff should show BMW this reply and see if they'll meet him halfway.

WATT A LITTLE



Tesla battery has 6,831 tiny lithium cells & is the most efficient in the industry

WHO'D DRIVE IT

Once driven, forever smitten

HARD to believe that this little green Tesla toy can accelerate to 60 faster than a Porsche GT3 RS or Ferrari 430 F1. But it can, in just 3.7 seconds.

Tesla's new electric Roadster 2.5 is shockingly quick. Nail the throttle, and it explodes forward like a sprinter, in absolute silence.

No car I've ever driven offers this surreal amalgam of hush and heave. And the lack of any mechanical cacophony is hugely narcotic.

Onlookers are as surprised as you are, pointing in amazement at this electrifying vision of the future. And to those who say electric cars are no fun, I say you can overtake whole lines of cars in one huge dollop of torque, outpacing virtually anything else

TECH FILE

ENGINE AC INDUCTION ELECTRIC MOTOR
POWER 288HP
0-60 3.7sec
MAX 125 MPH
PRICE £84723
IN A WORD SILENT SUPERCAR

on the road. Refinements to the drive-train mean the 2.5 is smoother and less creaky than the early cars. There's a big touchscreen sat-nav display with reversing camera, and even an electronic diagnostic system to tell you the temperature of the massive 215kW electric motor.

Only the steering lets the car down, being a little too heavy and inert. In every other department the new Roadster delivers awe in spades.

Feasible range is 200 miles - even driving at full tilt the range only dipped to 170, while charging is as easy as sticking a plug into a wall socket.

At around £85k, it's not cheap, but we should marvel that such futuristic technological audacity is available at all.

Willson

**BRITAIN'S
NO.1 MOTORING
WRITER**



Got a problem?
Email me at
willson@sunday
mirror.co.uk

Matiz makes
great budget
buzzabout



Q I'VE seen a Chevrolet Matiz 1.0 SE+, one owner, 21,000 miles, at a local dealer for £3,995. Would this be a suitable car for a 68-year-old lady who only does local mileage? - Betty Rayner, by email

A THE Matiz is an accomplished town shuttle - nippy, nimble and good for nearly 50mpg. SE+ is top spec,

with electric windows, air con, satnav and parking sensors. But the best news of all is that it will only cost you around 29p a mile. Bid them £3,500 and if they won't budge insist on a 12-month warranty.

Q I WANT to arrange insurance for my 21-year-old daughter on my BMW X5 while I'm on holiday. Is there a company which would do

this without charging a fortune? - Wendy Dane, by email

A TRY TempCover (www.tempcover.com), who sell insurance by the day, week or month. But given your daughter's age and the fact your X5 is a 3.0-litre, you may have a job. Very few companies will cover a 21-year-old to drive a big 4x4.

HELP!
You ask
me

MOVER



New E cabrio is world's
best family convertible

DROP TOP OF THE CLASS

MERCEDES' new E-Class cabrio really is a honey.

It is superbly stiff, strong and beautifully built, it's a genuine four-seater, can crack 35mpg and scamper to 60 in a smudge over six seconds. The 3.5-litre CGI

direct injection engine is sweet, silent and brisk, and the clever hood disappears at the push of a button in just 20 seconds, under a slick metal tonneau.

The Aircap anti-buffeting system works really well,

so even at motorway speeds your barnet won't be bothered.

Hugely better than its predecessor and starting at £??,?? it's probably the best-engineered four-seater cabrio money can buy.

Green means go for the Eco Economy



Quentin
and Kevin
McCloud

SPENT a fascinating day at this year's Revolve Eco Rally (my fourth year), joined by a clutch of green car celebrities like Kevin McCloud, Robert Llewellyn, Lisa Rogers, Eddie Irvine and F1 Guru Patrick Head.

I did the rally from Brighton to London in ITM Power's hydrogen Ford Focus, which only emits water that's clean enough to drink.

Chris Huhne, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, was gracious enough to join us. Unlike most ministers, he was informed, interested and refreshingly unencumbered by the usual coven of spin doctors.

Instead of sandal-wearing hippies, the event was crammed with car-makers, venture capitalists and investors in silk suits.

Be in no doubt - green cars are about to become big business, and it looks like this government could even be on the side of the motorist.

A 300MPH HYPER-DRIVE

HOT on the heels of Bugatti's new world record of 267.81mph for fastest production car comes a 300mph hypercar, the Dagger GT. Made by US firm

TranStar Racing, it's claimed the aluminium multi-fuel engine is good for 2,000bhp and a trouser-soiling 60 dash of just 1.5 seconds. If TranStar's claims are true

and they keep the price at £300,000, the Dagger GT would be the fastest and cheapest supercar in the world.

We'll see.



Dagger
takes stab
at Veyron